

## Niantic River Watershed Committee

Minutes
Niantic River Watershed Committee Meeting
May 10, 2011
4-6 pm
Conference Room 2, East Lyme Town Hall
108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT

**Attendees:** Dick Conway, Waterford;, Don Danila, East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme; Joe Mingo, East Lyme; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEP Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

- 1. Welcome: Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:00 pm.
- 2. Review of April 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes: Marvin Schutt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Don Landers. All were in favor of the motion, minutes were approved.
- 3. Watershed Coordinator's Report: Judy briefly summarized her activities for the past month. She has continued to promote the Landscaping for Water Quality social marketing project, and has distributed educational material to the participating nurseries and greenhouses. She has also scheduled a rain barrel sale to be held in June. She is reviewing the Thames River Basin Partnership QAPP to see how it can be adapted to our needs. She has been contacted by a Boy Scout who would like to assist with the Clark Pond (East Lyme) riparian buffer restoration to fulfill an award requirement.
- 4. Partner Reports: The Monitoring subcommittee met on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Connecticut College with watershed partners John Mullaney, USGS; Kelly Streich, CT DEP; Jamie Vaudrey, UConn; Steve Loomis (and two students), Connecticut College; and NRWC members Don Landers and Fred Grimsey. The group discussed water quality monitoring in the Niantic River.

#### 5. Discussion:

a. Establishment of Board of Directors: Judy reported that the four watershed towns have been working on making appointments. Marvin Schutt has been working on a location for the publicity event. Eric Thomas shared information on a similar signing held recently in the Natchaug River Basin.

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**b.** Plan of Work: Judy emailed the revised draft Plan of Work to Committee members. The next step is to evaluate the goals and activities and to begin to rank them. *Please submit your rankings to Judy for tabulation prior to next month's meeting.* 

#### 6. Monitoring Data:

- a. RFP Funding Opportunities: Judy is continuing to search for grant opportunities to fund this RFP. Subsequent to discussions with DEP and NFWF staff, in order to be eligible for federal funds, we need to add a requirement to the RFP for a QAPP (quality assurance project plan) to review secondary data, so Judy will be revising the RFP to reflect this requirement.
- b. Monitoring Program Development: Significant discussion took place regarding nitrogen loading and the need for sewer installation at Saunders Point. Members present discussed how the Watershed Committee could assist East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission with obtaining the information they need to advance the process on the State level. Joe Mingo mentioned sedimentation problems at the Golden Spur from Latimer Brook, and asked if USGS had sediment data from their monitoring station. He also brought up a sediment problem that exists on Rocco Drive. Joe Mingo also mentioned accumulation of trash behind the IGA on Chesterfield Road, and asked if NRWC could sponsor a clean-up day. Discussion was held regarding progress in implementing the Watershed Plan recommendations. Members reviewed the draft Plan of Work for the status of implementations. Eric Thomas asked if a QAPP would be ready to coincide with Fred Grimsey's Niantic River water quality monitoring. Judy did not think it would.

#### 7. Outreach:

- a. Watershed Stakeholder meeting: As a requirement of the current §319 grant, the coordinator must arrange a watershed forum to update watershed stakeholders on Plan implementation progress. The group briefly discussed the purpose and possible format of the forum. Judy stated we need to start planning this now. Anyone interested in assisting should contact her.
- b. The rain barrel sale will be advertised in local newspapers (likely The Day) at the end of May/beginning of June. Pick up will be held on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Waterford Highway garage on Route 85. This activity will be promoted as part of the Landscaping for Water Quality social marketing strategy, since use of rain barrels is one of the recommended strategies.
- c. Social Marketing Strategy Update: Judy continues to recruit nurseries and landscape businesses to participate in this project, and to promote the project among watershed and area residents.

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- d. Motorboat Regatta It was suggested at last month's meeting that NRWC sponsor or co-sponsor a motor boat regatta the day after the kayak regatta. Anyone who would like to assist with putting this together please contact Judy.
- 8. WBP Implementation
  - a. Clark Pond Riparian Buffer Restoration: Judy has been contacted by a Boy Scout who would like to assist with this implementation as part of a scouting conservation award requirement. A local landscaper has agreed to assist with the planting design. Eric Thomas suggested Judy contact the Town of East Lyme to determine if a State Inland Wetland General Permit for conservation will be required.
- 9. Other Business: Joe Mingo asked if NRWC would be attending Celebrate East Lyme Day. He would like to have some type of eye-catching display. It was suggested that Celebrate East Lyme Day be used as a springboard to promote other outreach events, such as the motorboat regatta and watershed forum. Judy stated she was looking for other outreach and publicity avenues. The Waterford Times was suggested. Judy also is looking for contact info for Suzanne Thompson.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.

The Niantic River Watershed Coordinator is funded in part by the CT DEP through a US EPA Clean Water Act §319 Nonpoint Source Pollution program grant.

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